

Knapp House  
(First house on East side  
of Wentworth Road)  
Walpole  
Cheshire County  
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-52

HABS  
N. H.  
3. WALP

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## KNAPP HOUSE

Location: Walpole, Cheshire County, New Hampshire (First house on East side of Wentworth Road)

Present Owner: Mrs. Raymond W. Bunker.

Present Occupant: The owner.

Present Use: Domestic.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a regionally typical example of an 1812 brick house. Original French Dufour wallpaper survives.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built by Josiah Knapp, it was in the Knapp family until c. 1930.
2. Date of Erection: "BUILT MDCCCXII" (carved in sill of first floor window, next west of the entrance on north side of the building.)
3. Builder: Josiah Bellows II? Information from Herbert Tucker of Walpole. Local legend. No documentation.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Carriage house wing replaces original. Wood, with arches and keystones are original. House plan is otherwise intact.

B. Historical Events Connected with Structure: Original lilac hedge running from house -- original for "Under the Lilacs" by Louisa May Alcott.

C. Important old Views: Old photos in historical society.

## D. Sources of information

1. Town history; Herbert Tucker, Walpole, N. H., and owner.
2. Federal Writers' Project, New Hampshire; A Guide to the Granite State (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1938), p.361.

NH  
3. WALP

HABS No. NH-52

KNAPP HOUSE

Page 2

- E. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: Walpole history now being written by Mrs. Frizzell. Also clippings in Historical Society.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.,  
University of Illinois, for National  
Park Service - July 1959.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Interest and Merit: Regionally typical example of an 1812 brick house.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories with central hall - c. 55' wide.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Brick, 4-5 courses thick, Flemish bond.
4. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Original porticoes. Some guttae blocks still in place. Original panelled doors. Two similar entrance doors with fan and side lights.
  - b. Windows and shutters: 6/6 double hung. Mostly original. Louvred shutters. Windows have granite lintels with simulated double keystones.
5. Roof
  - a. Shape - covering: Hip roof with monitor.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice with guttae blocks and rope mold.
6. Chimneys: at four corners.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Double facaded central hall type plan -- through hall, North and South. Basically, two rooms either side. Four bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement.
2. Stairways: One, east side of hall.
3. Floor: Pine, random width.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster with original Dufour 1812 paper in hall, drapery motif with Empire dado strip and drapery frieze. First floor, North West room has "Monuments of Paris" wall paper, c. ~~1812~~, all four walls by Dufour. Excellent condition. ~~1812~~ 1814
5. Doorways and doors: All doors panelled and molded.
6. Trim: All in good condition and almost all original.
7. Hardware: Almost all original.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central. Mantel in North West room, first floor, probably from an Asher Benjamin hand book.

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation: On several acres on hill overlooking Conn. Valley - double facaded, North and South with formal, principal entrance on North.
2. Outbuildings: Carriage buildings with original wood ovoid arches.
3. Landscaping: Shade trees and shrubs.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.,  
University of Illinois, for National  
Park Service - July 1959.